

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

COME-00 AID-05 /060 W

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P 161110Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9199

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRW 6080

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, GH, US

SUBJ: GHANAIAI TIMES INCLUDES U.S. AMONG EDITORIAL TARGETS;
SECRETARY TO NRC DISMISSES IT AS "SCURRILOUS"

1. SEPTEMBER 15 GHANAIAI TIMES CARRIES LONG, RAMBLING
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "NOT THE TROJAN HORSE AGAIN (EXCLAMATION
MARK)" WHICH INCLUDED FOLLOWING ABOUT 2/3 WAY THROUGHT:

"WHEN THE TOBACCO TYCOONS AND BEER AND ALUMINIUM MAGNATES
DECEIVE YOU THAT MILK AND SUGAR AWAIT US IN SOME EUROPEAN
COUNTRY OR AMERICA, IF ONLY WE HAD ANOTHER TYPE OF LEADERSHIP,
THAT IS THE TIME TO THINK TWICE.

"BEWARE WHEN FOREIGN DIPLOMATS BEGIN TO BE CROWNED
ASAFOATSES AND MANKRADOS. FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, FORMERLY OF THE
U.S. EMBASSY, MUST BE OUR GUIDE."

2. ALUMINUM REFERENCE POINTS STRAIGHT TO VALCO, NINETY PERCENT
OWNED BY KAISER AND TEN PERCENT BY REYNOLDS, BIGGEST SINGLE
FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN GHANA.

3. REFERENCE TO FOREIGN DIPLOMATS CAN ONLY BE TO MYSELF;
I WAS MADE HONORARY CHIEF SEPTEMBER6 IN CAPE COAST IN

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WIDELY PUBLICIZED CEREMONY. LAST SUCH CEREMONY IN OUR MEMORY

WAS FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SHORTLY BEFORE NKRUMAH OVERTHROW.
HE HAS BEEN OBJECT CONTINUING SCURRILOUS ATTACKS ALLEGING
HIS INVOLVEMENT IN 1966 COUP.

4. DURING CALL SEPTEMBER 15 ON NRC SECRETARY (AMBASSADOR
DEBRAH) ON ANOTHER MATTER (SEPTTEL), I MENTIONED THIS
EDITORIAL. HE ASSURED ME THERE WAS NOTHING TO IT AND WENT
ON "THE EDITOR IS A VERY STRANGE FELLOW. HE IS ALWAYS
WRITING SCURRILOUS THINGS -- WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT. PAY NO
ATTENTION TO IT." I REASSURED DEBRAH THAT I HAD HIGHEST
ESTEEM FOR GOG AND CHAIRMAN
ACHEAMPONG, AND WOULD LIKE TO
KNOW IF THERE WAS ANY COMPLAINT AGAINST ME. DEBRAH ASSURED
ME TO CONTRARY. "NO, WE ALL LIKE AND TRUST YOU. IF
ANYTHING WAS WRONG I WOULD TELL YOU."

5. COMMENT: GHANAIAI TIMES IS, OF COURSE, GOG-OWNED.
WHILE EDITORS HAVE SOME LEEWAY, OVERALL POLICY DIRECTION
COMES FROM GOVERNMENT. EDITORIAL WAS KEYED TO SEPTEMBER 12
SPEECH BY ACHEAMPONG IN COURSE OF WHICH HE ATTACKED UNNAMED
GHANAIAIS WHO DOWNGRADE GHANA IN WRITING FOR FOREIGN
PUBLICATIONS.
BLACK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, ALUMINUM, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ACCRA06080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750320-0805
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750946/aaaaboia.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANAIAI TIMES INCLUDES U.S. AMONG EDITORIAL TARGETS; SECRETARY TO NRC DISMISSES IT AS "SCURRILOUS"
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, GH, US, (WILLIAMS, FRANKLIN), (GHANAIAI TIMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006